

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 14, 24 and 36 are amended.
2. Claims 1 – 36 are not anticipated by Eatwell under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim 1 recites “estimating the noise” and “estimating speech” together with a “fraction of incoming noise”. A “noise reducing filter” is generated using the estimate of speech together with the fraction of the incoming noise. This is not disclosed or suggested by Eatwell.

Eatwell discloses that the incoming signal (x, including the speech and noise signals) is filtered into frequency components. A power measurement of a certain frequency component is made in block 2. It is clear from figure 2 and the passage in column 4 lines 24-37 that this power measurement of x is a measurement of power for all of the speech and all of the noise frequency band. The noise power estimator 3, signal power estimator 4 and gain modifier then use this power measurement.

Block 8 in figure 2 refers to a gain modifier, which is described in column 5 lines 1 –31. The gain modifier has 3 inputs, namely the power measurement of the signal and all the noise from block 2, noise estimation from block 3 and a Wiener gain calculation from block 5. Nowhere is it disclosed that the gain modifier, block 8, utilizes an estimation of the speech signal together with an estimate of a fraction of the incoming noise signal to generate a noise-reducing filter.

The signal power estimator shown in block 4 of Eatwell, figures 2 and 4, utilizes the power measurement of all the input signals. This includes all the noise from block 2, the noise estimation from block 3 and a power measurement of signal Y (Sig 2) from block 9. Block 9 is only referred to in column 5 lines 41-50, which simply states “this signal estimator (shown in Fig. 2) uses the power in the output signal calculated at 9 in

Fig. 2". Y is described in column 5 lines 31-34 as being the spectral output, that is the estimate of the spectrum of the information signal. Thus, it is clear to the skilled person that Y contains absolutely no noise signal whatsoever. All of the frequency channels are combined in block 7 to provide a noise reduced signal y.

Nowhere does Eatwell disclose an estimation being made of speech together with a fraction of incoming noise since all the speech and all the noise is utilized in Eatwell. As a result, it is clear that the disclosure in Eatwell is quite different from what is recited in Applicant's claims.

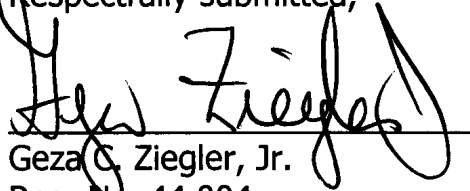
The Examiner refers to block 4 in Figure 2 as disclosing the estimate of speech together with a fraction of incoming noise. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that this analysis is incorrect. All that Eatwell discloses is that the "signal is estimated at 4." (Col. 4, lines 31-32.) There is no disclosure or suggestion that the signal is an estimate of "speech together with a fraction of incoming noise" as recited by Applicant in the claims. Thus, Eatwell cannot anticipate Applicant's claims.

3. Claims 3-12, 16-23, 25, 26, 28-35 and 38-45 are not unpatentable over Eatwell in view of Pastor at least by reason of their respective dependencies.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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30 August 2006

Date

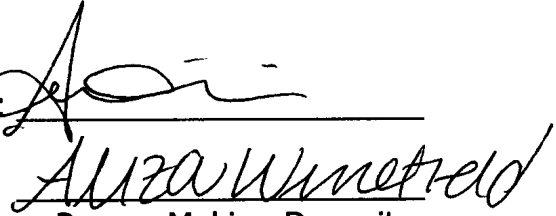
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